

## Message Text

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67

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /031 W

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R 201605Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1940

S E C R E T ROME 12837

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR SOCI VT XF

SUBJECT: VATICAN PLAN FOR JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES

1. VATICAN OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR MIDEAST POLICY INFORMED US NOV 20 IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT VATICAN SECRETARIAT OF STATE HAS BEGUN EFFORT TO ASSEMBLE SOME SORT OF PLAN FOR EVENTUAL SOLUTION PROBLEM OF JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES. ALTHOUGH NOTHING YET FORMALIZED, SOURCE FELT SURE PLAN WOULD NOT BE CONCRETE BUT WOULD CONTAIN NUMBER OF OPTIONS ON MAJOR ASPECTS. PRESENT INTENTION IS TO DISCUSS PLAN WITH NUMBER OF INTERESTED GOVTs, BUT NOT UNTIL QUESTION OF JERUSALEM NEARING CONSIDERATION IN PEACE TALKS. VATICAN AGREES WITH VIEW ASST SEC SISCO RECENTLY EXPRESSED TO CASAROLI THAT JERUSALEM MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM AND SHOULD ADABLY BE DEALT WITH AT END OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS. SOURCE STRESSED THAT VATICAN COULD PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SETTLEMENT OF JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES QUESTION, BUT ONLY AT PROPER TIME, AND THAT FOR THE MOMENT THERE WOULD BE NO VATICAN INTIATIVES. HE DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST NEWS WE HAVE HAD THAT VATICAN WILLING TO GO BEYOND ITS USUAL VAGUE FORMULATION OF "AN INTERNATIONALLY GUARANTEED SPECIAL STATUTE" FOR JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES. ONLY EXCEPTION WAS IN SEPT 4 CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMB LODGE'S ASSISTANT AND ARCHBISHOP PIO LAGHI, APOSTOLIC DELEGATE TO JERUSALEM (SEE ROME MEMCON OF SEPT 4). EVEN LAGHI, HOWEVER, WAS CAREFUL TO NOTE THAT HIS IDEAS PURELY PERSONAL AND THAT HIS EXPLORATIONS WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS WERE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 11 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), RELIGIOUS LEADERS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973ROME12837  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** 11652 XGDS-1  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Subject:** VATICAN PLAN FOR JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES  
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